

THE WASHINGTON TIMES PAGE OF ELECTRICAL NEWS AND NOTES

VACUUM DEVICE USEFUL TO DRY DAMP CELLARS

Cleaner's Varied Uses Are Only Limited by Ingenuity of Housewife.

"After spring rains our basement did not dry out as quickly as it should for good health's sake," said the suburbanite, "and then we made a discovery. We took the vacuum cleaner down, removed the bag, and turned the switch on. The fan of the cleaner worked wonders in that basement."

Then the family decided to have hardwood floors put in the upstairs bedrooms which had gone with nothing but pine boards for so long. The carpenters dragged the work along until everyone was tired of living in confusion, and then the agony was prolonged a little longer while the painters applied filling and varnish. At this point Mr. Husband cast a thoughtful eye upon the cleaner, nodded sagely to his mystified wife, and made tracks for the second floor three steps at a time, the vacuum cleaner in one hand. When the "home manager" arrived in his wake, she found the cleaner, bag off, busy at the task of drying the shiny floor surface.

After that it became a popular "in-door sport" in that household to see who could discover new uses for the cleaner. It's fan dried the baby's shoes on a muggy day. The blower attachment proved to be versatile enough to rout the dust from radiators and also to whisk all soil from silk lamp shades. "The Boy" of the house found it handy for drying his photographic plates and prints. And Mrs. Housewife learned that it could solve beautifully her old and annoying problem of dusting the white woodwork.

"A dust-cloth is so quickly soiled that it smears the edges of baseboards and all the kinks of white woodwork which catch dust," she said. "But the attachments of the vacuum cleaner dust all these difficult places easily and efficiently." And when the piano-tuner came to tinker with her baby grand piano and asked for some dust cloth to clean out between the strings, she lent him the electric cleaner instead. "Smarter than a half a dozen housemaids" was the verdict these suburbanites passed on their cleaner.

EVEN FRIGIDITY IS MAINTAINED BY ELECTRICITY

Refrigerator Plays Important Part in Affairs of Every Hostess.

It is, perhaps, putting it a little strong to say that "a hostess is no better than her refrigerator." Yet, is there not a large measure of truth in this saying?

Just run over in your mind the menus of some well-ordered dinners and luncheons: see how very many of the items depend almost entirely for their daintiness on the household refrigerator. Salads, ices, sherbets, table water, butter, cream cheese, cream—there are a perfect host of little big things the crispness, freshness, savor and coolness of which can even make up for mistakes in the main courses, or which, if they lack these qualities, can mar the effect of the finest cookery.

Yes, it is almost literally true that a hostess is no better than her refrigerator. That is why the electric refrigerator is rapidly taking the place of ice in the refrigerators of particular housewives.

They know that the electric ice man keeps the refrigerator at a steady, unfluctuating, food-preserving temperature, day in and day out, without attention, and at an expense no greater than that incurred by ordinary, unsatisfactory refrigerating methods.

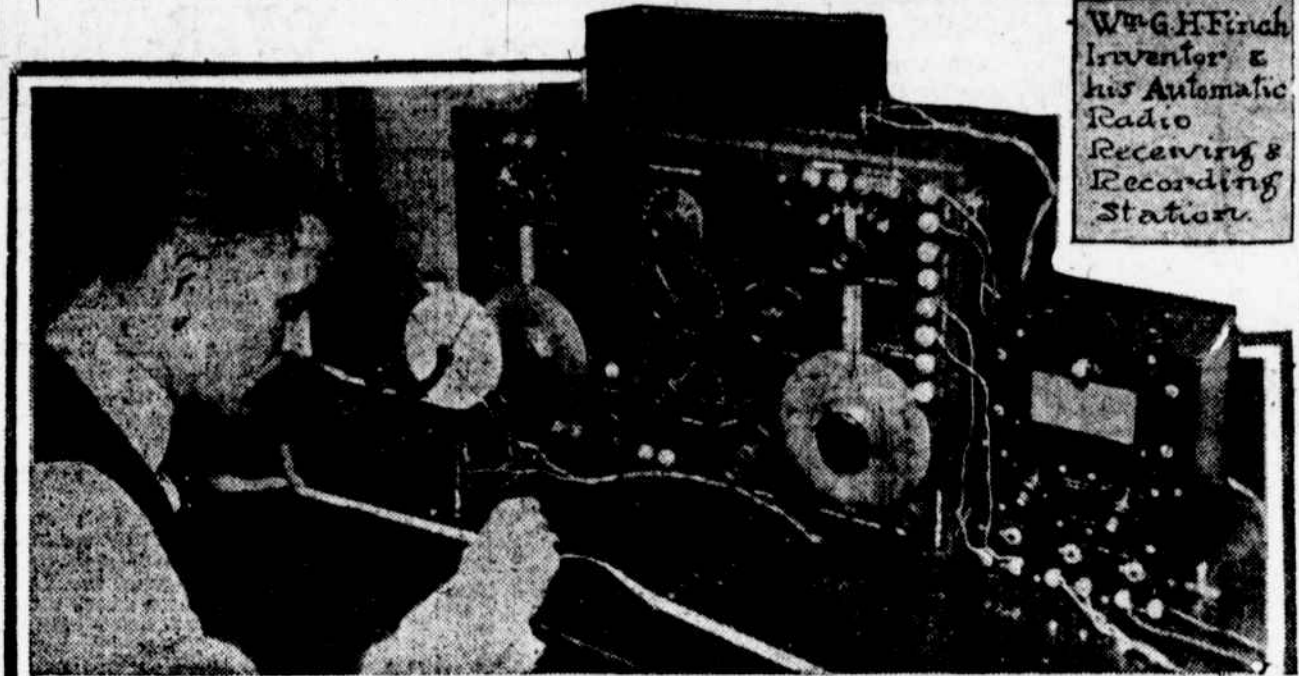
Non-Tangling Cord.
To go with the electric iron there is a convenient appliance cord which iron users will welcome. A spring coil takes up the slack in the cord as you iron and eliminates the nuisance of tangling it up with the ironing.

Join Our Wednesday Night Radio Phone Party You're Invited

Our guests are more numerous each Wednesday night, but we've prepared accommodations for more. Hear the best of music and other entertainment, all received by radio phone at our store—next Wednesday, April 5th, at 8:15 p. m.

Thos. J. Williams, Inc.
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"Everything Electrical"

AUTOMATIC RADIO INVENTION PICKS UP AND PRINTS WORDS ON TAPE



An automatic radio receiving device that will automatically pick up and print press dispatches sent in wireless code. That is the latest device, just perfected, for the radio enthusiast. The machine, when adjusted, runs like a clock and requires no operator. The device has been perfected and patented by William G. H. Finch, an experimental engineer, of Buffalo, who is an associate member of the Institute of Radio Engineers and other technical societies. He has been identified with radio development since 1908, holding one of the first licenses granted by the Government early in 1913.

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If you are confronted with any question or problem concerning the use of electricity or electrical devices, in your home, let the Electrical Editor of The Washington Times help you.

All questions submitted in writing by readers of this page will be cheerfully, authoritatively, and fully answered.

Use Baseboard Outlet.

Electrical Editor: We have been using a vacuum cleaner for about a year and Mrs. C. has found it very satisfactory. But in one or two rooms the cord is not long enough to allow the maid to reach into corners with the cleaner, and the result is that she has pulled and jerked with the machine until the lighting fixture has become loosened. Is there any danger in this?

H. V. C.

In the first place, the lighting fixture should not be used for connecting the cleaner, but a baseboard outlet should be installed for the purpose. This is much more convenient all around, and especially because it does not cause any strain on the fixture such as you describe. If this is not done, at least an additional length of cord should be added to the cleaner; it may easily be attached by the use of a cord connector. The loosened fixture should be tightened by an electrician. No electric connections should ever be left in such condition.

To Waterproof Batteries.

Electrical Editor: I shall appreciate it very much if you will tell me how I can waterproof dry batteries. Will waterproofing them protect them from moisture?

AMATEUR.

Remove the cardboard casing, and dip the cell in melted pitch or asphalt. Coal tar may be used, either by dipping the cells or applying with a brush. Melted paraffin is also recommended by some for this purpose.

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WIRELESS APPARATUS

A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION

FOR MENDING A SHIRT

The modern housewife, finds numerous ways of shortening her work. It is such a pleasure to use the machine, that she delights in experimenting with short cuts in sewing. She darns her husband's shirts by electricity, for instance, using the following method:

Stretch the shirt over embroidery hoops. Thread the machine as usual, remove the presser foot, slip the hoops under the needle, and lower the presser bar. By a turn of the hand wheel, bring up the lower thread, fasten by two or three stitches, and then move the hoops forward and back, running the machine at a rapid pace. A perfect rope will be formed which will fill in the holes. The principle is just the same as in hand darning. One should experiment with an old piece of cloth before beginning work on a garment, of course.

Electricity Economical.

It costs no more today to make a household servant of electricity and use it in all sorts of ways than it did ten years ago to have electric light alone.

E. C. GRAMM

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Electric light and power installation in old or new buildings of any size.

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At YOUR Service

"Pepco" service is the fountain of home comfort. It supplies life to the "electrical servants" that make the housewife happy and the home the essence of comfort. It makes these things possible:

The Electric Light, which does away with eye strain and makes the home a place of joy in the evenings.

The Electric Appliance for the table, which prepares such dainty meals without heat and fuss or running to and fro.

The Electric Fan, which brings happiness and comfort on the hottest days.

The Electric Cleaner, which searches every nook and cranny for dirt and dust and makes no demands on the strength of the housewife.

The Electric Washer, which takes over the weekly drudge of washing and leaves the housewife free to attend to her other household and social duties.

"Pepco" service makes these and many other things possible.

Potomac Electric
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**Don't
Complain**

It's your own fault if washday is a day of disagreeable, health-destroying labor in your home.

It's not necessary any more for the housewife to go through this monotonous weekly routine drudgery.

**Wash "The
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Way"**

The Laun-Dry-ETTE Electric Washing Machine does all the hard work. It washes, rinses, blurs and dries the clothes for the line—No hand work at all.

Without a wringer or extra tub, the Laun-Dry-ETTE does the washing from start to finish. You don't need to handle a single piece of garment in hot suds, but in cold water.

Free Demonstrations at Our Store Daily,
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**NATIONAL ELECTRICAL
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1328-30 New York Ave. Phone Main 6800

Electrical Washers Use Old Principle To Clean Clothes

Some people have the impression that it is a new principle of washing, this forcing of water back and forth through the clothes, and forth through the water, which goes inside the electric clothes washers. But as a matter of fact, nobody ever washed any other way. All modern science has done is to provide more effective devices for carrying out this process.

When a laundress rubs clothes on the washboard, she simply forces the suds and water back and forth between her hands and the corrugated surface of the board. The time-old method of washing fine laces and sheer fabrics generally had been to souce them up and down in the soapy water, a gentle and thorough way of cleaning.

The electric washers of various types, dolly, oscillating, cylinder, and vacuum cup, differ somewhat in their method, but the effect in all cases is to "souce" the clothes through the cleansing water, or the water through the clothes, with a motion much more mild than hand method of dipping the finer garments up and down, in and out of the water.

The easy action of these machines will not wear and tear the clothes as the more energetic manual operations frequently do, and at the same time, the motion of the cylinder, or the vacuum cups is sufficiently speedy to have great force.

This combination of power with gentleness is ideal for washing. It is what makes possible the statements of the manufacturers that their machines will "wash everything, from heavy blankets to fine laces without the slightest injury to the fabric."

This highly developed mechanical principle may not insure good washing, however, if the proper soap solution is not used.

Under a microscope a piece of cloth looks like a section of netting. In the tiny openings between the threads, particles of dirt gather, mixed with the waste oil which is given off constantly by the human body. This oil or grease must first be cut, so that the dirt particles may be set free from the fibres of the cloth and carried away in the wash water.

Therefore, the first part of the washing process is chemical, and

depends upon the soap and other solvents used in the water.

The second stage is mechanical, the washing away of the particles of soil, and this is the only part of the cleaning which the machine assumes to do.

Many a time when the washer apparently fails, when the clothes are not washed really clean and the housewife is led to suppose that something is wrong with her machine, the real trouble is that she has not used the proper soap or other solvents in the water.

Be sure that the chemical part of your washing is correct before you blame the machine, in case things go wrong, for mechanically, this new method of washing by an age-old principle has been found to be just about as near perfection as possible.

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ELECTRIC HEATERS GIVE CONTINUOUS HOT WATER

Pretty soon Dad will have shovelled the last of the winter's coal, emptied the last load of ashes, and he and all the rest of the family, will then have a relieved gasp. That is until they turn the hot water tap in anticipation of rushing warmth and feel instead the shock of mighty cold water. A furnace-connected water tank during the winter months does spoil home dwellers for the nuisance of the gas-heated tank.

Those who enjoy electric water heating are more fortunate. Like electric light, electrically heated water is always ready. The heater raises water to a temperature that you predetermine to suit your own particular needs. Generally 140 degrees Fahrenheit is satisfactory. Then as plenty of hot water is drawn off to make dishwashing a quicker, easier task or tub water an ever-ready luxury, the automatic control functions to bring the water in the tank back to the fixed temperature. When this is accomplished the control cuts off until further need. In this way current is automatically economized.

Radio Parties Latest.

Radio has swept into vogue the B. Y. O. P. bring your own phone parties. The owner of a receiving set invites his friends to share in enjoying the program of a particular broadcasting station and the guests accommodatingly bring their own radio head pieces.

Mr. Owner and Architect:

Insist on the use of Panel Boards for your wiring job. The additional cost is small and the result is a permanent and satisfactory installation.

WE MAKE A SPECIALTY OF DESIGNING PANELS FOR ALL PURPOSES.

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\$5 MONTHLY**

\$79.50

for this \$135 (nationally
priced) high-powered

Electric washing machine

Now down to \$79.50—the lowest price known at any time for an electric washing machine that is fully warranted to do the work.

Since we introduced this machine into Washington, about a year ago, we have sold carload after carload, and satisfied owners of these machines in your neighborhood will be glad to recommend them. Their experience proves up this machine more powerfully than anything we could say. Ask them.

And, of course, we shall be glad to give you an actual demonstration—right here at the store.

When we first introduced this machine it was selling nationally at \$165—our price was \$89.50. Today the machine is selling nationally at \$135—our price is now \$79.50. Both reductions are due to lower costs of labor and material.

But compare this machine at \$79.50 with any other high-powered washing machine on the market.

Compare it for ease of washing; automatic handling, self-oiling, easy running and all other points you look for in a washing machine. Come to the store.

Let us demonstrate these features

It has the one way cylinder, which makes, even the daintiest laces safe; Electric Swinging Wringer with safety release, adjustable in 3 positions, recognized everywhere as the best wringer ever made.

Genuine Westinghouse ball-bearing motor, known as the best for washing machines. Automatic oiling system. All moving parts inclosed—no danger to children. No belt to get out of order—direct shaft drive—simpler.

Celebrated Armco Rust-Resisting Iron (used throughout) is proof against any kind of water, soap and alkalis.

A good sized family washing done in 90 minutes—about one hour and a half—and at a cost of 2½ cents for electricity. Can be run from any electric light socket.

\$5 down; \$5 monthly If payments extend beyond 90 days we charge 6%.